

Church Family Worship at Home



26th July 2020

Service Theme: Parables of Yeast,
Mustard Seed and Pearls

Welcome

Preparation

Take a moment to be still and place yourself in God's hands.
Remember those who will also be worshipping with us and even though we cannot see them, we hold them to God.

Lord God, as we gather in your house,
we thank you for your presence, here with us.
Thank you, Lord, that each one of us is unique,
yet we share a common bond in you.
We come together as one body,
but we all learn and experience things in different ways.
We thank you for your amazing word
that gives us so many pictures of your kingdom.
Something for everyone,
something to feed our hearts and minds.
Be with us, Lord,
and bless us richly as we call upon your name.

Amen.



Song to : Waymaker

https://youtu.be/iJCV_2H9xD0



Opening Prayer

God, your kingdom is like:
a mustard seed – full of possibilities;
yeast – it helps us to grow;
treasure – worth searching for;
a precious pearl –
worth giving everything up for;
a net – ready to gather us in.
Help us to discover these secrets.

Amen.



Prayer for the Day

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it row to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Saying Sorry

Lord God, sometimes I feel so set in my ways.
always ready to give something up
thing of value that you promise.

Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

I want to keep my treasures locked up
in a storeroom, safe from prying eyes.

Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

Sometimes I just expect things on a plate.
I'm not always ready to work for something
that you call me to do.

Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

I do want to be the yeast in my world;
but I'm not always ready to be pummelled,
or to give up my easy life.

Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

Sometimes I take my eyes off you and feel so lost.
Bring me back, please, Lord.

Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

Amen.

Saying sorry – Children



Lord Jesus,
sometimes we do not notice
what you are doing.
Help us to recognise your kingdom.

Sometimes we are too concerned
about ourselves
to notice other people in need
Help us to recognise your kingdom.

Sometimes we miss the opportunity
to serve you and others
Help us to recognise your kingdom.
Amen.



BIBLE READING



Reading – Romans 8:26-end read by Laurence Davis <https://youtu.be/xhCd6laYs4M>

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reading: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Children: You might like to listen to this by following the link where there are more pictures to see <https://youtu.be/m4nP5IEj57M>

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

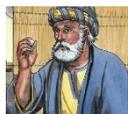
³¹ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”



³³ He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.



⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.



⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”



Reflection Time



Short Reflection by Hazel Davis

<https://youtu.be/M5eBxelbvU>

For children: While listening to this, why not do the colouring sheet that is provided with the children's sheets.

Waiting and Transitioning Well.

What stood out to me whilst reading the parables today, is the aspect of waiting that is involved, we must wait for a mustard seed to grow, yeast to do its magic, deeds for the land to be signed, the nets to be hauled in, before we gain the treasure. It doesn't end there.

There is more work to be done. How we approach this work is affected by the attitude we have whilst we wait. Waiting is not just a passive act. You can wait anxiously or patiently, with boredom or with anticipation.

Not far from my house is a small lake that fills up as part of the flood defence network of ditches and waterways protecting the newly built houses in the area. It's not particularly pretty, the reeds and waterside plants have not grown enough yet and dogs are constantly in and out churning up the muddy bed. Although we were excited to see our first set of ducklings this year there is not a lot of wildlife happening in this bland spot of water. However, a heron has appeared over the past few weeks standing still at the edge in the shallows of the lake. Surely there can't be fish in this water? Why doesn't it go and fish at the nearby river instead?

Then just the other day, on walking past the lake, watching the heron standing still, waiting staring at the water. Laurence and I shook our heads and chuckled at the poor heron, thinking there are no fish in there mate, you're wasting your time. Suddenly the heron struck and plucked out a fat juicy fish! We literally stopped dead in our tracks, mouths gaping! Who knew there were actual live fish in there?! But of course, it wasn't a surprise for the heron who knew along that treasure was there and it was well worth waiting for.



Treasure is a mystery, hope hidden from sight. Something you know is there, a hunch, a feeling maybe, and at best we see it dimly like looking through the (not so clean) oven door waiting and watching for the bread rise. So we wait....



Waiting for it to be safe to come back out into the world has been hard for some of us. As we transition from various levels of restrictions, do not be surprised to find that the waiting has changed us, all is not as it was, and may never be the same again.

Let us wait in anticipation instead of anxiety, with expectation to see what God has been doing hidden from our sight, maybe as we emerge from separation, we will see that seeds have grown, bread has been baked, nets are full and there is treasure to be enjoyed in rebuilding our community. Let us set our eyes on Jesus and prepare ourselves, for this rebuilding will require work; the table must be set, because after the baking comes the meal and who knows who will turn up and surprise us?



Children's Reflection on the Matthew Reading

This reflection provides opportunities to reflect on or talk together about the Matthew reading.

<https://youtu.be/jViYEMB9p3Y>

And/or you could do the Family Time Sheet together (separate sheet).

What do you remember from today's reading?

Jesus tells some more stories to explain the Kingdom of Heaven to us. *What does he say it is like? (Like a man looking for fine pearls, like treasure in a field.)*

Let's think a bit more about one of the stories Jesus tells. He says that the Kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone has found.

How would you feel if you found some treasure? What would you do next?

In Jesus' story the person who finds the treasure hides it again, then goes away and sells everything that they own to buy the field that it is in. *Why do you think they do this?*

They are so excited by the treasure, and they know that it is worth more than everything that they own. It is the best thing that they can possibly have – nothing compares to it.

Jesus is telling us that the Kingdom of heaven is a treasure that we can reach if we live our lives as God asks us to.

We all have things we treasure in our lives. *What treasures do you have? Why are they so special? (You might first want to talk about something you treasure to give the children an example.)*

Each one of us is a treasure made by God. We are all very special, no matter who we are or where in the world we live.

God has created the whole world and all the people, animals, plants and other things in it. There are so many treasures in our world for us all to share. *Can you think of some treasures in our world that we share? (eg. water, the sun, fresh air, trees, food)*

How can we look after the treasures of our world and make sure that they are there for all people to enjoy now and in the future?

We can try not to take more than we need, so that there is enough for everyone and to care for God's world and all the people, plants and animals in it. We can try to be kind and loving, to share generously and to treat other people as we would wish to be treated.

This week, look around you and count all the treasures that God has given us. And try your hardest to do at least one thing to show your care for God's world and the treasure that is in it.

What will you do this week to care for and protect the treasure of God's world and help make sure that it is there for all people to enjoy now and in the future?



Family Song -City on a Hill <https://youtu.be/ITEadEftdnM>

You may want to play this to sing together at home – see if you can come up with some actions to go with it! (Can you spot the words from Romans 8:31?)

Intercessory Prayer

Lord, you took so much care to describe
your kingdom
in ways everyone could understand,
including us.
Your kingdom come, O Lord.
Your will be done.

We pray today that you will pass on to us
that gift of making ourselves accessible.
Keep us
from being a stumbling block to those who
would seek you;
from using language that puzzles;
from actions that confuse;
from anything that keeps us apart from
your people around us.
Your kingdom come, O Lord.
Your will be done.
Amen.

*Take a moment to sit quietly and think of
signs around you that show how God is
alive in creation - in nature, in people, in
random acts of kindness, etc.*

Lord, as I go on my way this week,
whether in town or country, inside or
outside,
among people or own my own,
alert me to signs of your kingdom.
Even if I can only see a small patch of sky
out of a window,
remind me of the possibilities of your
kingdom.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours
Now and for ever.
Amen.**



HYMN: Be Thou My Vision
<https://youtu.be/Optrm7IF16s>



Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me,
Save that thou art.
Thou my best thought,
By day or by night.
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Be though my wisdom,
And thou my true word,
I ever with thee and
Thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great father,
I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling
and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not,
Nor man's empty praise.
Thou mine inheritance,
Now and always.
Thou and thou only,
First in my heart,
High King of heaven,
My treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven,
My victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's sun.
Heart of my own heart,
Whatever befall,
Still be my vision
O ruler of all.

Closing Prayer

God of the kingdom,
may we plant the seeds,
may we grow like the yeast,
may we seek your treasure,
may we prize your pearl,
may we come into the net
of your kingdom,
this week and every week.
Amen.

Dismissal

**May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore.
Amen.**

God bless you now and always

